

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS ALL EEC CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PORG, ID

SUBJECT: EAST TIMOR QUESTION

REF: JAKARTA 8977

1. USUN, ON JULY 7, RECEIVED FROM UN, FRETILIN PRESIDENT LABATO SPEECH OF MAY 20, 1978 AND A "REPORT ON THE WAR IN EAST TIMOR" SUBMITTED BY RESIDENT FRETILIN CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JOSE RAMOS-HORTA. THE PAPERS IN DOCUMENT FORM WERE CIRCULATED AT THE REQUEST OF THE MOZAMBIQUE MISSION TO THE UN.

2. THE LABATO SPEECH WAS LARGELY DEDICATED TO EXHORTING HIS FRETILIN COMRADES TO CONTINUE THEIR RESISTANCE. LABATO APPEALED, INTER ALIA, FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNITY, OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR, OF ALL PATRIOTS AROUND THE FRETILIN CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND A CALL FOR IDEOLOGICAL UNITY. IN LATTER CASE HE STATED "PROCLAIMED IDEOLOGICAL UNITY WILL ONLY BE AUTHENTIC WHEN WE (FRETILIN) PUT IT IN PRACTICE". ALSO, THAT THOSE WHO DON'T BELONG TO FRETILIN ARE ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE -- "TRAITORS

TO OUR MOTHERLAND." LABATO CALLED THE NINE MONTHS OF INDONESIAN ENCIRCLEMENT AND ANNIHILATION, A CAMPAIGN "WORTHY OF RESPECT" BUT "IRREMEDIABLY SINKING IN THE FRONTIER REGIONS." LATER IN SPEECH HE CALLED FOR INDONESIAN UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL AND ENDED BY STATING "THE PRICE OF OUR FREEDOM IS ARMED STRUGGLE, AND THE POWER OF THE MAUBERE PEOPLE COMES FROM THE END OF A GUN."

3. THE REPORT OF THE WAR IN EAST TIMOR STARTS BY BOASTING THAT FRETELIN "EFFECTIVELY CONTROL(S) AND ADMINISTER(S) 85 PERCENT OF THE TERRITORY" AND THAT "SOME 90 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE LIVE IN LIBERATED AREAS". THE REMAINING 10 PERCENT THE REPORT ASSERTS LIVE IN INDONESIAN-CONTROLLED AREAS RESEMBLING THE PAST AMERICAN STRATEGIC HAMLETS IN VIETNAM. FRETELIN CLAIMS INDONESIA HAS IN THE TERRITORY SOME "35,000 TO 45,000 TROOPS BACKED BY AMERICAN, BRITISH, FRENCH, BELGIAN AND ISRAELI-MADE WEAPONS, INCLUDING AIRPLANES, HELICOPTERS, TANKS AND ARMORED CARS." U.S. INVOLVEMENT (REFTEL) IS ALSO RAISED, AS THE REPORT CITES THE FRETELIN MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY, ALARICO FERNANDES' RADIO BROADCAST OF JUNE 17. FERNANDES STATED "AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISERS ARE NOW FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE INDONESIAN INVADING FORCES" AND THAT AMERICAN SUPPLIED TANKS ARE NOW OPERATING ALONG ROADS BETWEEN TURISCAI AND MAULISSE; BETWEEN DILI, REMIXIO AND MANATUTO. ON JUNE 10, INDONESIANS WITH AMERICAN TANKS CAPTURED THE TOWN OF LACLO ON THE NORTH COAST OF EAST TIMOR. ALSO THAT FRETELIN HAS CONFIRMED THE LANDING OF 15,000 INDONESIAN TROOPS (SINCE MID-MAY) IN PREPARATION FOR PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S ANNOUNCED VISIT TO EAST TIMOR ON JULY 17. THE REPORT CLAIMS THAT DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 500 TROOPS WERE SENT BACK TO INDONESIA FROM DILI AFTER REFUSING TO FIGHT -- THAT "DISCONTENT AND LOW MORALE AMONG INDONESIAN TROOPS IN EAST TIMOR ARE NOW WIDESPREAD AND HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF SHOOT-OUTS IN THE BARRACKS." LEONARD

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ALL EEC CAPITALS.

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